

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1041

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO FR BR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-BRAZILIAN EXCHANGES ON ANGOLA

REF: (A) STATE 026067, (B) PARIS 03352

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CHIEF OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS (ZAPPA) TOLD EMBOFF THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR STATEMENTS ON AFRICA ATTRIBUTED TO SAUVAGNARGUES BY UPI. ZAPPA WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT IDEA OF JOINT FRENCH-BRAZILIAN EFFORT TO RESOLVE ANGOLAN CONFLICT WAS NOT DISCUSSED. WITH REGARD TO SAUVAGNARGUES' ALLEGED STATEMENT REGARDING EXCLUSION OF "FOREIGN INTERVENTION" OR "WORLD POWERS" FROM ANGOLA, ZAPPA ADMITTED THAT THIS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN THEORETICAL WAY AND THAT SAUVAGNARGUES MAY HAVE INFERRED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER'S INFORMAL COMMENTS THAT BRAZIL SHARES HIS CONCERN ABOUT FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT ANY SUCH CONCEPT WAS RIGOROUSLY EXCLUDED FROM THE COMMUNIQUE AND THAT SAUVAGNARGUES HAD NO FORMAL BASIS TO MAKE SUCH STATEMENT IN BEHALF OF BRAZIL. ZAPPA, WHO ASSUMED SAUVAGNARGUES HAD BEEN QUOTED CORRECTLY, ADDED THAT BRAZIL, OF COURSE, NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO IDEA OF EXCLUSION OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND GOAL OF PURELY AFRICAN SOLUTION, BUT THAT GOB NOT PREPARED TO STATE THIS POSITION PUBLICLY IN VIEW OF ITS DELICATE POSITION IN ANGOLA AND SENSITIVITY OF ITS RELATIONS WITH MPLA-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT.

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2. CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S WESTERN EUROPEAN DIVISION

(PIRES DO RIO) TOLD EMBOFF FLATLY THAT UPI REPORT OF SAUVAGNARGUES' REMARKS WAS SIMPLY INCORRECT. IN COVERING SAUVAGNARGUES' REMARKS MAJOR BRAZILIAN PAPERS GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED HIS CONCERN OVER FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND PREFERENCE FOR "AFRICAN SOLUTION" AS STRICTLY FRENCH POSITION RATHER THEN JOINT FRENCH-BRAZILIAN CONCERN. RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL, HOWEVER, DID REPORT THAT SAUVAGNARGUES STATED THAT FRANCE DEPLORES THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT, AND THAT ON THAT POINT HE HAD OBSERVED "CONVERGENCE OF POSITIONS" IN HIS CONVERSATIONS IN BRAZILIA. COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON AFRICA, HOWEVER, WHICH SUPPORTS NO SUCH INTERPRETATION, STATES ONLY FOLLOWING: "THE TWO MINISTERS..... EXAMINED THE RELATIONS OF FRANCE AND BRAZIL WITH THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, TO WHICH THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE LINKED BY TIGHT BONDS OF A CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHIC, AND EFFECTIVE CHARACTER. THEY ENDORSED, MOREOVER THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF EVENTS IN AFRICA ON WHICH THEY WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. CRIMMINS

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